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Third Committee
Agenda item 109
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2018/15, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, in which it encouraged coherence of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and the functional commissions of the Council, and other intergovernmental bodies and forums with the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also that Sustainable Development Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, will be reviewed in depth by the high-level political forum in 2019,

Recalling further the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as set out in its resolution 72/192 of 19 December 2017, including the decision that the main theme of the

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Fourteenth Congress would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda",

Underscoring the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind that the implementation of the present resolution would support and be without prejudice to the existing mandates of the Commission,

1. *Underlines* the importance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in actively contributing to the global follow-up to and supporting the thematic review of progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to its mandate;

2. *Encourages* Member States to raise awareness about the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its relevance in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[1]

3. *Recognizes* the integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the interlinkages between them;

4. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within its existing mandate, with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and encourages the Commission to further enhance its cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental bodies and forums with a view to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Encourages* Member States to consider including information on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, also in relation to the work of the Commission, in their voluntary national reviews for consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development during its meeting to be held in 2019 and sharing relevant information contained in those voluntary national reviews with the Commission during its twenty-eighth session, including in the context of the general debate;

6. *Invites* Member States and relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders to provide the Commission, through its secretariat, for consideration during its twenty-eighth session, views on how the Commission can contribute to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and requests the Secretariat to also bring that information to the attention of the high-level political forum at its meeting in 2019 and the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, within existing reporting requirements.

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[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2018/16, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that

[1] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

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field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Emphasizing the important role played by the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in recognizing that crime prevention and criminal justice, with due regard to the observance of human rights, make a direct contribution to the maintenance of peace and security,

Recognizing the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice to promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2020,

Recalling its resolution 72/192 of 19 December 2017, in which it approved the agenda items and decided upon the main theme and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and also decided that the duration of the Fourteenth Congress should not exceed eight days,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which it adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the importance of the substantive contributions that the Fourteenth Congress can make to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Encouraged by the success of the Thirteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States,

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[4] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in following up on the implementation of the Doha Declaration;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

4. *Decides* to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020;

5. *Also decides* that the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress shall be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback;

6. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the draft discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice, as well as making a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their input;

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[3] E/CN.15/2018/11.

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

10. *Urges* Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate, and invite their representatives to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Congress;

11. *Invites* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

12. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Fourteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress;

13. *Also reiterates its invitation* to Member States to play an active role in the Fourteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the workshops, and encourages States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other concerned entities and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain a strong partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

18. *Again encourages* the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and the programme budget for 2020, to support the preparations for and holding of the Fourteenth Congress;

21. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations;

22. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its twenty-eighth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session.

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Crime prevention and criminal justice

The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2018/17, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are the indispensable foundation of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating its determination to foster strict respect for them and to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels,[1] including that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Mindful of its resolution 72/119 of 7 December 2017, entitled "The rule of law at the national and international levels", as well as all its previous resolutions on that topic,

Mindful also of its resolution 72/196 of 19 December 2017, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", as well as all its previous resolutions on that topic,

[1] General Assembly resolution 67/1.

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Mindful further of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2004/25 of 21 July 2004, 2005/21 of 22 July 2005 and 2006/25 of 27 July 2006 on strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, as well as the technical assistance activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in that area, including in post-conflict reconstruction,

Recalling its resolutions 67/186 of 20 December 2012, entitled "Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking", and 68/188 of 18 December 2013, entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",

Aware of the importance of its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes the commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and in this respect recalling its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level,

Expressing its grave concern about the negative effects of all manifestations of transnational organized crime on development, peace, stability and security and human rights,

Convinced that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing appreciation for the ongoing efforts of Member States to promote the rule of law and strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice, including by integrating development programmes into their initiatives in this regard,

Convinced that the promotion of and respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance, should guide the activities of the United Nations and its Member States,

Emphasizing its commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them, encouraging the effective participation and inclusion of all sectors of society, thus creating the conditions needed to advance the wider United Nations agenda, and recognizing the responsibility of Member States to uphold human dignity, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in particular those affected by crime and those who may be in contact with the criminal justice system, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, who may be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, and to prevent and counter crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind,

Encouraging Member States to consider using and applying the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice to strengthen fair and effective criminal justice systems, bearing in mind the importance of the rule of law and its relevance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing the significance of a well-functioning, efficient, fair, effective and humane criminal justice system as the basis for a successful strategy against transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, illicit drug production, manufacturing and trafficking, trafficking in persons and other dangerous forms of trafficking,

Recognizing the importance of the rule of law to all areas of engagement within the United Nations system, and noting with appreciation the progress made in ensuring coherence and coordination of activities to support the rule of law, in cooperation with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, while recognizing the different mandates of different United Nations entities,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of efforts by Governments to promote and consolidate the rule of law are undertaken in accordance with the Charter, and stressing the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building,

Emphasizing the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[2] in which Member States recognized the importance of effective, fair, humane and accountable crime prevention and criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them as a central component of the rule of law,

Encouraging Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies and national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and in this respect stressing that social development and the promotion of the rule of law, including the fostering of a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in accordance with the Doha Declaration, should be integral elements of strategies to foster crime prevention and economic development in all States,

Aware that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, at its meeting in 2019, which will have as its theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", will review, inter alia, the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017, entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime",[3]

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of its resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes the commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

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[2] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 10* (E/2017/30), chap. I, sect. D.

2. *Urges* Member States to continue to recognize the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, and recommends that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated, while reiterating the commitments made with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular in connection with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16;

3. *Renews its call upon* relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue cooperating and coordinating their activities, within their respective mandates, to promote a more integrated approach to the provision of assistance for building capacity in the area of the rule of law and criminal justice reform and to further explore joint projects in that area;

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[2] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Emphasizes* the commitment expressed in the Doha Declaration to holistic and comprehensive approaches to countering crime, violence, corruption and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, and to ensuring that those responses are implemented in a coordinated and coherent way, along with broader programmes or measures for social and economic development, poverty eradication, respect for cultural diversity, social peace and social inclusion;

6. *Urges* Member States to mainstream crime prevention strategies with a gender perspective that are aimed at children and youth into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, including those addressing education, health, civic participation, socioeconomic opportunities, information and communications technology and public safety and security, in order to protect children and youth from social marginalization and exclusion and to reduce their risk of becoming victims or offenders, and to this end to strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 3 to 5, 8 to 11, 16 and 17;

7. *Also urges* Member States to adopt integrated and comprehensive responses to violence against women in order to reduce risks of gender-related killing through early intervention and risk assessment, exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, ensure equal protection of women under the law and equal access to justice, consider adopting an integrated, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach to the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of gender-related killing of women and girls to minimize the risk of secondary victimization in the criminal justice system, develop appropriate mechanisms and enhance capacities for forensic investigations to identify human remains and missing persons and, to these ends, strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 5 and 16;

8. *Invites* Member States to promote educational programmes related to crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular for young people, that foster an understanding of justice and the rule of law, which is an approach to be taken

by Governments towards the general public to promote trust and respect for the law and its enforcement, and, to these ends, to strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 4 and 16;

9. *Also invites* Member States to intensify, in line with their domestic legal frameworks, national and international efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, religious intolerance, xenophobia and gender-related discrimination by, inter alia, raising awareness, developing educational materials and programmes and considering, where appropriate, drafting and enforcing legislation against discrimination and, to these ends, to strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16;

10. *Encourages* Member States, with the active participation of the private sector, to promote crime prevention and social inclusion programmes and employability schemes for vulnerable members of society, including victims and those released from prison, and, to these ends, to strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 1 to 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment, such as trafficking in wildlife, including fauna and flora as protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[4] and poaching, as well as illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, and, to these ends, to strive to achieve all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 13 to 16;

12. *Acknowledges* the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, in the area of education for justice, including under the Education for Justice initiative, which is a key component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, and requests the Office to continue its efforts to promote education on the rule of law and justice in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant stakeholders;

13. *Notes* that the main theme of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in 2020, will be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda", and looks forward to fruitful discussions at the regional preparatory meetings and at the Congress on that subject;

14. *Invites* Member States participating in the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress to make specific proposals and recommendations in line with its theme, related to the advancement of the rule of law, for consideration by the Congress;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to promote the rule of law and achieve sustainable development, and notes the application of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the rule of law, taking into account the work undertaken by other United Nations entities, within existing mandates, as well as regional and bilateral efforts, and to continue to ensure coordination and coherence, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to support, in an effective manner, its efforts towards the implementation of its mandates and, as appropriate, the global follow-up and thematic review relating to its existing mandates, which are essential for strengthening the maintenance of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including by providing special support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to enable it to actively contribute, as appropriate, to the global follow-up to and thematic review of progress made by Member States in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as set forth in General Assembly resolution 70/299;

18. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to promote the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals, handbooks and capacity-building material developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General towards stronger coordination and integration of rule of law assistance, through specialized and relevant international organizations, in order to enhance predictability, coherence, accountability and effectiveness in the delivery of rule of law assistance at the national and international levels, and encourages further participation by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in such arrangements, in particular with regard to police, justice and corrections;

20. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to include in their work programme the issue of the rule of law and the provision of assistance to States, at their request, in responding to the challenges posed to the rule of law and development, as well as to strengthen their efforts to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

21. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders to provide to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime their views on advancing crime prevention and criminal justice, in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 16, as well as their views on the contribution that the Fourteenth Congress, considering its main theme, could make to the furtherance of these issues, and requests the Office to report to the Congress on that matter;

22. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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Seventy-third session
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Agenda item 74
Promotion and protection of human rights

Antigua and Barbuda: draft resolution

World Braille Day

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally, as well as of improving the efficiency, performance and transparency of the Organization,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[1]

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[2] in which it is reflected, in articles 2, 9, 21 and 24, that braille is a means of communication and social inclusion for blind persons,

Recognizing that braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols,

Recognizing also that braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font,

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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Affirming that the use of braille by individuals who are blind or partially sighted ensures the communication of important information to them and others and represents competency, independence and equality,

Affirming also that, because the importance of well-developed literacy skills on the part of all individuals is reflected in the value placed on reading and writing in schools and throughout society, instruction in literacy skills can justifiably be considered the cornerstone of education and an important tool in the fight against poverty,

Affirming further that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights relevant to matters of written language and fundamental freedoms in the context of written language are critical prerequisites to the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people,

1. *Decides to proclaim* 4 January World Braille Day, to be observed each year beginning in 2019, in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a written language in the full realization of the human rights of blind and partially sighted people;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Braille Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of braille as a written language;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures throughout society to raise awareness of braille as a written language;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.